

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jack Cook of Sevierville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Jack Cook; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cook was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Jack Cook was born on September 21, 1944, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and grew up in Springfield, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cook joined the United States Navy at the age of 18; he served with valor and distinction in the Naval Security Group during the Vietnam War as a Communications Technician and Intelligence Team Leader; and

WHEREAS, upon the conclusion of his military service, Jack Cook earned his high school diploma at age 24 through an adult education program; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Mr. Cook earned a certificate of apprenticeship from the Department of the Navy as a skilled journeyman and sheet metal aircraft mechanic; and

WHEREAS, Jack Cook served in law enforcement for many years in Pensacola, Florida, and Baker, Louisiana, during which time he also served as a basketball referee, a little league baseball coach, and an independent contract painter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cook lived in London, Kentucky, for five years, during which time he operated his own debt collection agency, drove a school bus, and volunteered with the Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, he moved to Sevierville in 1998 and worked in marketing until his retirement in 2008; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen, Mr. Cook served as Assistant Coordinator of the Sevier County Chaplain Corp, Fraternal Order of Police Chaplain, and member of the Douglas Cooperative Board of Directors, Sevierville Lodging Association, Pigeon Forge Hospitality Association, and Smoky Mountain Lodging Association; and

WHEREAS, he also served as an emcee for countless local events and as a volunteer for numerous organizations, including the Cherish the Child Foundation, The Lord's Child, United Way, and the Sevierville Sunrise Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Jack Cook was also deeply devoted to his family and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife of thirteen years, Mary Maness Cook; his children, Darren Cook and his wife, Lori, and Eric Cook and his wife, Mary; his stepchildren, Amanda Maness Sweat and her husband, Rob, and Josh Maness and his wife, Deanna; twelve grandchildren; and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, Jack Cook leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jack Cook, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Cook.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.